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Les Gardes d'Honneur de la Marne, 1813. By FRANÇOIS SAGOT.
(Reims: Matot-Braine. 1911. Pp. 167. 2.50 fr.)

The *Gardes d'honneur* were a cavalry corps of four regiments which Napoleon raised in 1813 for his last campaigns, to re-enforce his Old Guard, decimated by the Russian expedition. The imperial treasury was empty, the resources of the nation no longer responded to taxation, and the most vigorous among the poorer classes had all, long before, been sent to the front. The recruiting, equipping, and financing of these troops therefore presented a delicate and perplexing problem. M. Sagot, on the basis of searching investigations in the *Archives Nationales* and in the *Archives Départementales de la Marne*, shows how this problem was solved by an appeal to personal vanity, supplemented by a threat to private wealth. The members of the *Gardes d'honneur* were to be chosen exclusively from the ranks of the higher classes, who had before escaped enlistment by hiring substitutes, and they were to pay for the privilege of this exclusiveness by defraying their own expenses during their first year of service. It was to be a high honor to be called upon to join these troops and to contribute to their maintenance, but an honor not to be lightly declined, nor, in fact, easily evaded. The terms of the imperial summons made it very clear that no cautious subject could afford not to appear flattered on being selected. M. Sagot, quoting liberally from manuscript documents, shows how the expression of the Imperial Will in this matter, faithfully interpreted by minister, prefect, and sub-prefects was transmitted to the Department of the Marne and complied with therein.

The specifically military and administrative nature of this monograph does not allow a detailed review at this place. But although in no sense a treatise on financial history, M. Sagot's *Gardes d'Honneur de la Marne* belongs to that happily large and varied class of books, which the economist may take up without remorse in his weary moments, with the comforting sensation that he is widening his field of professional knowledge, while indulging in a very pleasant form of intellectual recreation.

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NEW BOOKS

AGUILLON, L. *Exposé de la taxation des mines dans les divers pays.*
(Paris: Dunod et Pinat. 1912. Pp. 76. 2.50 fr.)